

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS STATE 179779

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 179779 ACTION ALL NATO CAPS DUBLIN  
GENEVA MOSCOW NICOSIA NATO EC BRUSSELS BERN HELSINKI MADRID  
STOCKHOLM USUN VIENNA AUGUST 16TH

UNCLAS STATE 179779

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON CYPRUS SITUATION, AUGUST 15:

QUOTE:

Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY ADVISED  
OF GREECE'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MILITARY ARM  
OF NATO?

A: YES, WE HAVE. THE GREEK CHARGE D'AFFAIRES PRESENTED  
A COMMUNICATION TO UNDER SECRETARY SISCO - YESTERDAY  
AFTERNOON, I BELIEVE IT WAS.

AND ON THE QUESTION OF GREECE AND NATO, YOU ALL WERE  
ASKING MANY QUESTIONS YESTERDAY -- I MIGHT GIVE YOU THE  
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FOLLOWING AS SOME HELP:

AS WE UNDERSTAND THEIR DECISION TO LEAVE THE INTEGRATED  
MILITARY COMMAND OF NATO, GREECE HAS SAID IT REMAINS A

MEMBER OF NATO. WE UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS IN ATHENS THAT PROMPTED THIS DECISION BY GREECE, AND WE HOPE THAT, AFTER THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS HAS CLARIFIED ITSELF AND THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED, TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH THE GREEK

GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE PRECISELY ITS FUTURE ROLE WITH NATO.

Q: IN THE PRESS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIRMER IN TRYING TO RESTRAIN TURKEY -- IN FACT, IN THE PRESS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL TODAY -- THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EXPRESSIONS THAT PERHAPS WE EVEN ALLOWED THE COUP IN CYPRUS TO TAKE PLACE -- ALL SORTS OF NEGATIVE FEELINGS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' BEHAVIOR, AND THE SECRETARY'S PERFORMANCE.

DO WE UNDERSTAND THE GREEKS TO BE CRITICAL OF US AND "APPRECIATE THEIR CRITICISM?" IS THAT WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEANS?

A: ON THIS QUESTION OF WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN TILTING TOWARDS TURKEY, WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY CRITICAL OF TURKEY, I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO ABOUT NO TILTING, AND WHAT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID YESTERDAY IN HIS BRIEFING-- PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO OUR DECISION TO CARRY ON WITH PRIVATE EFFORTS, AND NOT PUTTING THEM INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WHILE WE WERE CARRYING OUT THESE PRIVATE EFFORTS AND, AS AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID YESTERDAY, THIS COULD BE A REASON FOR LEGITIMATE CRITICISM. BUT THAT IS THE DECISION THAT WAS TAKEN AND I WOULD JUST PREFER TO LEAVE IT THERE.

Q: THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE ARE NOT AFFECTED, BECAUSE THOSE BASES ARE A RESULT OF A BILATERAL AGREE-  
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MENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND DO NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVE NATO. IS THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS?

A: WE HAVE NOTED THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

Q: WELL, IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY COMMAND OF NATO THAT, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD AFFECT OUR PRESENCE IN GREECE?

A: ON THIS, I REFER YOU TO WHAT THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SAID PUBLICLY ON THE QUESTION OF UNITED STATES BASES IN GREECE. AND HE HAS MADE HIMSELF QUITE

CLEAR, I THINK.

Q: WAS THERE AN INVITATION THAT THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER COME HERE?

A: ORIGINALLY, FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY WITH US, AND THIS WAS BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, OF VISITING WASHINGTON. AND THEN THE CONFERENCE GOT UNDER WAY AND, AT THE TIME, WE LET THE FOREIGN MINISTER KNOW THAT HE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME HERE.

BUT FOR YOUR OWN GUIDANCE, AN INVITATION HAS BEEN RE-ISSUED FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME -- AND WE HAVE HAD NO REPLY.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CALLED ME YESTERDAY, I REPORTED AND TRIED TO GIVE YOU ALL I COULD ON THE RESULT OF THE WASAG MEETING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AND I POINTED OUT THAT NO FIRM, HARD DECISIONS WERE MADE THERE.

A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS WERE DISCUSSED.

AND I THEN SAID THAT THE THREE MESSAGES HAD GONE FORWARD TO PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND MR. CLERIDES OF CYPRUS - FROM THE SECRETARY.

Q: THERE IS A REPORT ON FBIS QUOTING THE ANKARA RADIO AS SAYING THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TOLD PRIME UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTER ECEVIT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE TURKISH VIEW THAT TWO AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON CYPRUS ON THE BASIS OF A GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION. IS THAT AN ACCURATE REPORT?

A: NO, IT IS NOT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS?

A: LET ME GIVE YOU SOMETHING ON THIS -- BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES, AS YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD, HAS PUT FORWARD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF CYPRUS. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE SUPPORT A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY ON CYPRUS. AND WE DO BELIEVE THAT AUTONOMY IS A WAY OF ASSURING THE PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY.

Q: WOULD YOU GO OVER THAT LAST SENTENCE?

A: WE DO BELIEVE THAT AUTONOMY IS A WAY OF ASSURING THE PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY. WE DID MENTION AUTONOMY BECAUSE WE WERE FULLY AWARE THAT

ALL PARTIES IN GENEVA WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS CONCEPT AS A WAY OF MEETING THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES. AND FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID YESTERDAY ON THE RECORD, WHICH YOU ALL HAVE, BUT I WILL READ IT NEVERTHELESS.

"I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT TURKEY HAS LEGITIMATE CONCERNS AND INTERESTS REGARDING ITS COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CONCERNS. AT THE SAME TIME, GREECE AND CYPRUS ALSO HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN CYPRUS."

Q: WELL, THEN, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT THE ANSWER TO THE REPORT IS NO? IT WOULD SEEM TO ME FROM WHAT YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE ANSWER TO THE REPORT IS YES.

A: WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. AS AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID HERE YESTERDAY, IT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS UP TO THE PARTIES AND THAT IS WHY I STARTED OFF IN THIS STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE NEVER PUT FORWARD ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. INsofar AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GIVEN AUTONOMOUS AREA, THE DELINEATION OF IT, THE SIZE OF IT, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE NOT PROPOSED, AND THAT IS WHY I MADE THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT.

Q: IF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF GREECE AND TURKEY WERE TO DESIRE TO COME HERE TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS, INSTEAD OF GOING BACK TO GENEVA, IS THE SECRETARY PREPARED TO SPONSOR SUCH TALKS HERE IN WASHINGTON?

A: WELL, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, AS FAR AS THE WASAG MEETING YESTERDAY WAS CONCERNED, THERE WERE NO DECISIONS, FIRM DECISIONS, TAKEN ON OUR NEXT DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN THIS SITUATION. NOW, THERE WAS, AS I TOLD THOSE OF YOU YESTERDAY WHO ASKED ME -- THERE WAS ANOTHER WASAG MEETING THIS MORNING AT 11:30. IT LASTED ABOUT 35 MINUTES -- CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY. AND FOLLOWING THAT MEETING, I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT MADE ANY DECISIONS ON WHAT IT MAY OR MAY NOT DO DIPLOMATICALLY. AND WE ARE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. AND AS AND WHEN ANYTHING IS DECIDED, THEN WE WILL LET YOU KNOW. SO THIS IS A RATHER LONG ANSWER TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION. WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY SPECIFIC DECISIONS YET ON THE DIPLOMATIC TRACK.

Q: THERE IS A REPORT FROM LONDON, BASED ON FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES, SAYING THAT AFTER WILSON AND CALLAGHAN HAD TALKED BY PHONE WITH FORD AND KISSINGER, THE TWO COUNTRIES, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, HAD DECIDED

THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO IN THE WAY OF MAKING PROPOSALS OR MOVING THINGS UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPPED, AND THEY WERE JUST GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET THE FIGHTING TAKE ITS COURSE. IS THIS CORRECT?

A: IN TERMS OF WHAT IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE AT THIS TIME, I THINK IT IS CORRECT TO SAY THAT OUR FIRST AND PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO GET A CEASEFIRE, TO GET THE FIGHTING TO STOP. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.  
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BUT AS FOR THE UNITED STATES JUST SITTING BY AND LETTING THE FIGHTING TAKE ITS COURSE AND NOT TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT TO STOP THE FIGHTING, THAT IS NOT CORRECT. WE ARE TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO URGE A CEASEFIRE.

Q: DID AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TELL PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS TWO AUTONOMOUS ZONES ON CYPRUS?

A: NO, HE DID NOT.

Q: HE DID NOT TELL HIM THAT?

A: OUR POSITION IS AS I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU HERE. AND

AMBASSADOR MACOMBER DIDN'T HAVE ANY DIFFERENT POSITION THAN THE ONE I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

Q: MOVING BEYOND THE PRIMARY AIM OF ACHIEVING A CEASEFIRE, THE SECONDARY AIM SEEMS TO BE GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

A: YES.

Q: NOW, DO WE SUPPORT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS STRONGLY ENOUGH IN ORDER TO SPONSOR THEM IN WASHINGTON AS A REPLACEMENT OR RESURRECTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. AT THIS STAGE I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO JUST STAY WHERE I AM -- WHERE I HAVE BEEN ON THE QUESTION OF OUR NEXT DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN TRYING TO HELP SOLVE THE SITUATION. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITIES.

Q: THAT IS ONE OPTION. IS ANOTHER OPTION THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING MR. SISCO BACK TO THE AREA?

A: NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER, ON WHAT OUR NEXT DIPLOMATIC MOVE WILL BE. WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT ON THIS.

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Q: CAN YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SECRETARY, OR IS THE SECRETARY PREPARED TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE PERSONAL ROLE IN RESOLVING THIS CRISIS?

A: THE SECRETARY IS ALREADY PLAYING A VERY ACTIVE PERSONAL ROLE, AS BOB MCCLOSKEY MENTIONED YESTERDAY TO YOU, TELLING YOU WHAT HE HAD DONE OVER THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. HE CONTINUES TO BE VERY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN IT. HE HAS CHAIRED THE WASAG MEETINGS, HE HAS TALKED WITH SENATOR FULBRIGHT, HE HAS SENT THESE THREE MESSAGES OFF THAT I MENTIONED. AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO INVOLVE HIMSELF VERY DEEPLY IN IT.

Q: MORE SPECIFICALLY, IS THERE ANY PLAN FOR HIM TO GO TO THE AREA?

A: THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR HIM TO GO TO THE AREA AS OF THIS TIME, AS AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID YESTERDAY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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